

State Department review
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NSC BRIEFING

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- I. Iraqi Prime Minister Qasim will have been in the hospital eight weeks tomorrow (2 December). His future moves are still question marks, but his impending departure from the hospital has engendered a feeling in Baghdad that something will break soon.
- A. An air of uneasy calm prevails in Baghdad and maneuvering between Communist and anti-Communist factions continues.
- B. It is still not clear whether demonstrations, which are almost entirely organized by the Communists, will be permitted to mark the occasion of Qasim's release, particularly since the army appears more determined than heretofore to keep the situation under control.
- C. Our embassy in Baghdad states that the economy is stagnant, unemployment and prices high, and the long-range development program is bogged down because of poor planning and lack of competent technicians.
1. The highly publicized land reform is lagging; crops this year were poor.
2. Soviet Bloc economic assistance as now arranged is unlikely to bring about any early improvement in the economic situation.
- D. New attempts against Qasim's life may be made.
1. Nasir reportedly more hopeful that anti-Communist Iraqis will be able to curb any increase in Communist activity without outside armed intervention.

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